

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE**

OMB Approved 0524-0039

National Environmental Policy Act Exclusions Form

Project Director Name	Institution
Address	

Under 7 CFR Part 3407 (CSREES's implementing regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)), environmental data or documentation is required in order to assist CSREES in carrying out its responsibilities under NEPA, which includes determining whether the proposed activity requires the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement, or whether such activity can be excluded from this requirement on the basis of several categories. Therefore, it is necessary for the applicant to advise CSREES whether the proposed activity falls into one of the following Department of Agriculture or CSREES categorical exclusions, or whether the activity does not fall into one of these exclusions (in which case the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement may be required). Even though the applicant considers that a proposed project may or may not fall within a categorical exclusion, CSREES may determine that an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement is necessary for a proposed project should substantial controversy on environmental grounds exist or if other extraordinary conditions or circumstances are present that may cause such activity to have a significant environmental effect.

Please Read All of the Following and Check All Which Apply

☐ The proposed activity falls under the categorical exclusion(s) indicated below:

Department of Agriculture Categorical Exclusions

(found at 7 CFR 1b.3 and restated at 7 CFR 3407.6 (a)(1)(i) through (vii))

- ☐ (i) Policy development, planning and implementation which are related to routine activities such as personnel, organizational changes, or similar administrative functions
- ☐ (ii) Activities that deal solely with the functions of programs, such as program budget proposals, disbursements, and transfer or reprogramming of funds
- ☐ (iii) Inventories, research activities, and studies such as resource inventories and routine data collection when such actions are clearly limited in context and intensity
- ☐ (iv) Educational and informational programs and activities
- ☐ (v) Civil and criminal law enforcement and investigative activities
- ☐ (vi) Activities that are advisory and consultative to other agencies and public and private entities, such as legal counseling and representation
- ☐ (vii) Activities related to trade representation and market development activities abroad

CSREES Categorical Exclusions

(found at 7 CFR 3407.6(a)(2)(i) through (ii))

The following categories of CSREES actions are excluded because they have been found to have limited scope and intensity and to have no significant individual or cumulative impacts on the quality of the human environment:

- (i) The following categories of research programs or projects of limited size and magnitude or with only short-term effects on the environment:
 - ☐ (A) Research conducted within any laboratory, greenhouse, or other contained facility where research practices and safeguards prevent environmental impacts
 - ☐ (B) Surveys, inventories, and similar studies that have limited context and minimal intensity in terms of changes in the environment
 - ☐ (C) Testing outside of the laboratory, such as in small isolated field plots, which involves the routine use of familiar chemicals or biological materials
- ☐ (ii) Routine renovation, rehabilitation, or revitalization of physical facilities, including the acquisition and installation of equipment, where such activity is limited in scope and intensity

OR

☐ Proposed activity does not fall into one of the above categorical exclusions

(NOTE: If checked, please attach an explanation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed activity. May require completion of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement.)

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0524-0039. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average .25 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.